



## A Message From The Secretary

Just a little more than an hour away from Topeka in Burlington is the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant, producing more than 1.2 million kilowatts of electricity (enough for 800,000 homes). This month many KDHE staff will participate in an exercise drill in which the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

grades states to determine how prepared they are to respond to a disaster at the plant. Every year the emergency plans are reviewed and exercised, and staff from KDHE and other state agencies responds to various scenarios including radiological releases and the need for evacuations of properties near the plant.

This is all part of the state's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of Kansans and the environment. These exercises are critical to making sure we're ready for the unthinkable, whether it's an accident or a terrorist attack. KDHE has many qualified, dedicated staff who will be involved in this drill and the real thing, should it happen. I want to thank these individuals and every one of you for the work you do to protect Kansas.

Many of us spend a lot of time thinking about others in our daily jobs, but we also need to think about protecting ourselves this flu season. We can expect to start seeing flu cases in Kansas within the next several weeks and that means we all need to get a flu shot and practice good handwashing. It's absolutely critical to staying healthy and keeping others healthy. Antibacterial hand gels also work. If we get sick, it's best to stay home to ensure we get well faster and we don't get others sick. Covering our cough and practicing good respiratory etiquette are also important to keeping others healthy.

November 15 is America Recycles Day and a perfect time to encourage recycling in your community and work area. Many of you have seen our Get Caught Recycling campaign, which is nearing its external launch. It features well-known Kansans including former college basketball stars Wayne Simien (University of Kansas), and Kendra Wecker (Kansas State University), along with Bill Kurtis (broadcaster). We encourage you to watch for ways to become more involved in recycling efforts.

We're nearing the end of our United Way campaign and have raised more than \$12,000 in just a few short weeks. Great work! Our goal is \$16,500 and we can get there! United Way ensures our donations go to those in need in our community throughout the year. Think about those in your neighborhood who could use a helping hand to get back on their feet. For the price of a cup of coffee a day, your donation can make a tremendous difference! For more information on donating to United Way, contact your campaign coordinators, Mary Glassburner and Karl Muedener, or go to our intranet site.

Be well,